

# Our Cultural Moment

SESSION 4 – May 8, 2023 – Pastors John Bellis & John Schreier

## 12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

### ***POINT 9 – Jesus was Supernaturally Confirmed to be God in Human Flesh***

#### **Reviewing Miraculous Confirmation**

1. What is a miracle?

*Divine intervention into the natural world that produces an unusual event that would not have occurred by natural laws.*

2. Such events can then be used to confirm a message from God.
  - a. OT Examples
    - i. Exodus 4:1-5
    - ii. 1 Kings 18:36
  - b. NT Examples
    - i. Mark 2:10-11
    - ii. Luke 7:20-22

#### **5 Criteria for Miraculous Confirmation**

1. Supernatural (No anomalies, no magic, no providential acts, no psychosomatic cures)
  - a. Authenticity – John 11, Matthew 14
2. Multiple miracles
  - a. Deuteronomy 17:6, “the mouth of two or three witnesses”
  - b. Gospel record provides over 50 miracles that Jesus did
3. Truth claim
  - a. John 3:2, Matthew 9:2-7, Hebrews 2:3-4, John 20:30-31
4. Predictive Element
  - a. Nearly 100 predictions of the first coming of the Messiah in the OT
    - i. Genesis 3, 4, 9, 12, 26, 49, 2 Samuel 7, Jeremiah 23, Isaiah 7, Micah 5, Isaiah 40, Isaiah 53, Daniel 9, Psalm 2, 16
    - ii. Isaiah 53:2-12 alone has roughly 20 predictions
5. Unique
  - a. Supernatural, multiple, predictive, and connected with His truth claims.
  - b. No other religion has contemporary, eye-witnessed based records
  - c. Unique convergence of miraculous confirmation
    - i. Supernatural predictions about Jesus
    - ii. Jesus lived a sinless and supernatural life
    - iii. Jesus predicted and accomplished His own resurrection

## Alleged supernatural events of other religions & Response

- Miracle claims of Judaism
  - Biblical Judaism vs *Post-Biblical Judaism*
    - Biblical Judaism is the parent of Biblical Christianity
    - Post-Biblical Judaism (Rejects Jesus as Messiah)
      - No miracles to support their claims
      - No central figure
        - One example: cow gave birth to a lamb
          - No reliable source
          - No Messianic truth claim connected with it.
          - Contrary to God's ordained order (Genesis 1:24)
- Other non-Christian religions
- Miracle claims about Buddha
- Miracle claims about Hare Krishna (Hinduism)
- Miracle claims for Apollonius of Tyana
- Miracle claims for Muhammad
  - Miracle of the Qur'an is Muhammad's miracle

## Final Thoughts

- *Norm Geisler points out in conclusion, that there should be no ultimate implication taken that God, who loves all people of all religions could not or would not do an occasional miracle, should he deem it part of His "goodness that leads to repentance" (Romans 2:4)*
- *With the fulfillment of OT prophecies, the life lived of performing miracles, and the predictive and accomplished/witnessed nature of the resurrection, Christ is the Christ, and Christ alone, is confirmed as almighty God in human flesh.*
- *The central claim of Christianity is true.*
- *The opposing claims are false.*
- *Jesus Christ of Nazareth is God.*

***If Jesus is not God, then there is no Christianity, and we who worship Him are nothing more than idolaters. Conversely, if He is God, those who say He was merely a good man, or even the best of men, are blasphemers. More serious still, if He is not God, then He is a blasphemer in the fullest sense of the word. If He is not God, He is not even good." J. Oswald Sanders***

***The deity of Christ is the key doctrine of the scriptures. Reject it, and the Bible becomes a jumble of words without any unifying theme. Accept it, and the Bible becomes an intelligible and ordered revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ." J. Oswald Sanders***

**POINT 10 – Whatever Jesus, who is God, teaches is true.**

**1. Why God cannot Err**

A. He knows \_\_\_\_\_ and, so, He can't be wrong about \_\_\_\_\_.

(Psa. 147:5; Rom. 11:33).

B. He must act and speak in accord with His \_\_\_\_\_ nature (Heb. 6:17, Mal 3:6).

C. Hence, He cannot utter \_\_\_\_\_.

(Heb 6:18, Titus 1:2, John 17:17, Rom 3:4, 2 Tim 2:13, James 1:17)

**2. Why Jesus cannot Err**

A. The Logical Reason

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ err.

2. Jesus is God.

3. Hence, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ err.

B. The Moral Reason

1. Jesus is morally \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A morally perfect being cannot \_\_\_\_\_ . (intentionally err)

3. Therefore, Jesus cannot deceive anyone about what He \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Hence, Jesus cannot deceive anyone about anything He \_\_\_\_\_.

(Special note undergirding this reason: Christ's Character and Nature)

**3. Dealing with three major objections**

A. To Err is Human

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ View

(John 2:15-16, 3:9; Matt 22:16, 29; 23:16-33)

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ View

(Matt 11:27, 24:35, 28:18, 28:20; John 8:26, 12:48)